

Appln. No. 10/782,064  
Amendment dated December 27, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed 10/12/2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. through 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A method of opening a closed gate valve comprising:  
providing a valve override system comprising:

an engagement means being adapted for engaging a gate of the gate valve assembly such that said engagement means is for urging the gate of the gate valve assembly into an open position to allow fluid to pass through the gate valve assembly;

said engagement means comprising a rigid elongate member, said rigid elongate member being adapted for extending through a casing of the gate valve assembly such that said rigid elongate member engages a bottom edge of the gate of the gate valve assembly;

said rigid elongate member having threads, said threads of said rigid elongate member being adapted for threadably engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said rigid elongate member being adapted for being rotated with respect to the casing of the gate valve assembly for changing the length of said rigid elongate member positioned in the gate valve assembly to actuate the gate of the gate valve assembly;

an inhibiting member being adapted for selectively engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said inhibiting member being adapted for inhibiting environmental communication

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between an interior space of the gate valve assembly and  
an external environment;

said inhibiting member being operationally coupled to said rigid  
elongate member, said inhibiting member being adapted for  
abutting the casing of the gate valve assembly to inhibit  
environmental communication through the casing adjacent  
said rigid elongate member;

said inhibiting member being threaded, said threads of said  
inhibiting member threadably engaging said rigid elongate  
member such that said inhibiting member engages the  
casing of the gate valve assembly to preload said rigid  
elongate member and inhibit said rigid elongate member  
from inadvertently separating from the gate valve  
assembly;

drilling a hole through the casing of the gate valve assembly opposite  
a valve stem of the gate valve assembly;

tapping the hole of the gate valve assembly to provide the hole with  
threads;

threading said inhibiting member onto said rigid elongate member;  
threading said rigid elongate member into the hole drilled into the  
casing of the gate valve;

rotating said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve  
assembly to advance said rigid elongate member into the gate valve  
assembly and urge the gate into the open position; and

tightening of the inhibiting member against the casing of the gate  
valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication between the interior  
space of the gate valve assembly and the environment and inhibiting  
inadvertent rotation of said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate  
valve assembly.

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8. (Previously presented) A method of opening a closed gate valve comprising:

providing a valve override system comprising:

a rigid elongate member for engaging a gate of the gate valve

assembly, said rigid elongate member having threads; and

an inhibiting member having interior threads for selectively

engaging the exterior threads of the rigid elongate member;

forming a hole through a casing of a gate valve assembly at a location opposite of a valve stem of the gate valve assembly;

tapping the hole of the gate valve assembly to provide the hole with threads;

threading said inhibiting member onto said rigid elongate member;

threading said rigid elongate member into the hole drilled into the casing of the gate valve assembly;

rotating said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly to advance said rigid elongate member into the gate valve assembly and to contact the gate to thereby urge the gate into an open position; and

tightening of the inhibiting member against the casing of the gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication between the interior space of the gate valve assembly and the environment of the gate valve assembly and to inhibit inadvertent rotation of said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly.